

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a photovoltaically active layer that includes a polymer comprising a polyalkylthiophene and a fullerene, the method comprising: heating the photovoltaically active layer to a temperature of at least 70°C.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the fullerene comprises a methanofullerene.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in either of claim 1, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is exposed to a solvent vapor.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is exposed to the solvent vapor at room temperature.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is exposed to the solvent vapor for no longer than one minute.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the solvent comprises a solvent selected from the group consisting of xylene, toluene, butanone, chloroform, and mixtures thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is heated to a temperature of at least 80°C.
8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a photovoltaically active layer that includes a polymer comprising a polyalkylthiophene and a fullerene, the method comprising: contacting the photovoltaically active layer with a solvent vapor.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein ~~the polymer comprises a polyalkylthiophene, and~~ the fullerene is mixed with the polyalkylthiophene polymer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the fullerene comprises a methanofullerene.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the photovoltaically active layer contacts the solvent vapor at room temperature.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the photovoltaically active layer contacts the solvent vapor for no longer than one minute.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent comprises at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of xylene, toluene, butanone, chloroform and mixtures thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent at least partially etches or softens the polymer.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising heating the photovoltaically active layer.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is heated to a temperature of at least 70°C.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein, after treating, the photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a photovoltaically active layer that includes a polyalkylthiophene and a methanofullerene, comprising:  
heating the photovoltaically active layer at a temperature of at least 70°C.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein, after treating, the photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, after treating, said photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.